

Investigations

Some Say It's Garrison Who's in Wonderland

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By MARTIN WALDRON

NEW ORLEANS — One who

studies the Warren Commission report runs the danger of becoming obsessed with trying to fill the gaps left in the commission's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Europe as well as the United States is full of people who have become so obsessed, and they have flooded the nation's newsstands with hastily written books expounding their views. The theories of the President's assassination that have been expounded in print have ranged from the official version, assassination by a lone, deranged gunman; through political murder; to an international conspiracy involving Cuban refugees, homosexuals and spies.

The man who has created the greatest stir over the theory of international conspiracy is New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Expanding Theory

He is a 45-year-old hard-living and hard-driving prosecutor who frequently does not arise from sleep until shortly before noon and who does much of his thinking at French Quarter bars. Almost nightly his theory has grown, much as bread dough rises under heat. It has expanded in all directions.

Last week, Mr. Garrison was being accused of using threats, bribery and coercion in his investigation. He brushed aside these accusations as "being unworthy of comment."

Last February and March, Mr. Garrison — who has termed the Kennedy assassination as resembling something from Alice in Wonderland — said that David W. Ferrie, a one-time airline pilot who died on Feb. 22, and Clay L.

Shaw, retired manager of the New Orleans Trade Mart and something of an international socialite, were the central figures in the plot to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

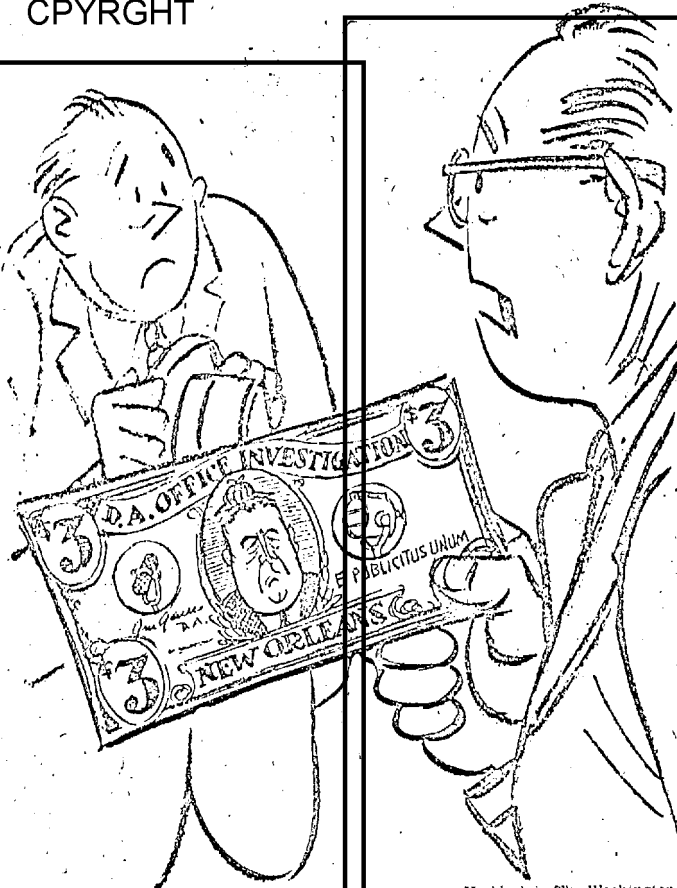
Last week, Mr. Garrison had included agents of the F.B.I., the Secret Service and the C.I.A. in the conspiracy. He had not, as yet, accused them of having advance

knowledge of the assassination; this charge he has limited to Lee Harvey Oswald and Mr. Ferrie, both of whom Mr. Garrison said were C.I.A. agents. The chiefs and the top supervisors of the F.B.I., the C.I.A. and the Secret Service were, in Mr. Garrison's words, guilty of being "accessories after the fact."

Late one night about 10 days ago, Mr. Garrison set down his theories on the C.I.A. and F.B.I. involvement in a handwritten document which "fell" into the hands of some New Orleans newspaper reporters. This was after the District Attorney had learned that Newsweek magazine, after a five-week investigation, was about to accuse one of his investigators of attempting to bribe a witness to "fill in some holes" about the assassination conspiracy.

Whether by planning or by accident, the timing of this "leak" of the District Attorney's theory of C.I.A. and F.B.I. involvement in a "cover-up" was effective. Any impact that the Newsweek story might have had in New Orleans was lost in the shadow of Mr. Garrison's new charges.

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"You say you got this from a Mr. Jim Garrison?"

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This ability to manipulate people and public opinion has made Mr. Garrison, a formidable figure in Louisiana politics, and even those public figures who may not believe the District Attorney's theory about the Kennedy assassination have not opposed him. Gov. John J. McKeithen, who owes part of his election to support from Mr. Garrison four years ago, has said he believes "Jim's got something."

Senator's Friend

Senator Russell B. Long, the majority whip and probably the most powerful Louisiana politician, has been a close personal and political friend of Mr. Garrison. It was Senator Long who got him interested in investigating the assassination in the first place, said the District Attorney. He said that Senator Long had told him on an airplane trip to New York that the Warren Commission report seemed incomplete.

Mounting criticism from around the nation of Mr. Garrison's methods and of his unsubstantiated charges of conspiracy within the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. has not appeared to bother him one whit. He has said he would stop giving interviews to reporters for "the national press" and said that he would ask his good friend, Senator Long, to get the Senate to investigate the C.I.A.

Meanwhile, he has gone merrily along, issuing a subpoena for Richard Helms, director of the C.I.A., to appear before the New Orleans grand jury next Wednesday and to bring the "real" photograph taken of Oswald outside the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City in October, 1963, and not the "fake photograph" which he said the C.I.A. had given the Warren Commission.

When Attorney General Ramsey Clark last week ordered F.B.I. agents not to appear before the grand jury when subpoenaed by Mr. Garrison, the District Attorney cited this as partial proof of his charges of cover-up, and said that the Federal agencies "are taking the Fifth Amendment."

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